

March 26, 1996

LB 1189, 1368
LR 396-404

counterproductive, and I suggest that that is particularly true in Nebraska where we are today in terms of our economy, where we're going as we adopt bills like 1368 and compete in the marketplace for high-quality jobs. I urge the defeat of the Wesely amendment, not because we do not care about individuals, not because we do not care about people earning a fair day's wage for a fair day's work. I urge the defeat of the Wesely amendment because the clear, statistical, factual analysis available to each and every one of us is that the establishment of the regulatory minimum wage is not an effective way to increase people's income. Thank you.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Senator Witek, before you begin, Mr. Clerk, do you have items you'd like to be read into the record?

CLERK: Excuse me, Senator. It will take just a moment. I've got a series of study resolutions, Mr. President. (LR 396-404). All will be referred to the Executive Board. An amendment to be printed by Senator Pedersen to 1189. An announcement: Senator Wickersham would like a meeting of the Retirement Systems Committee at three o'clock in Room 2022; Retirement, three o'clock, Room 2022. (See pages 1542-47 of Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Thank you very much. Members of the body, I wonder if Senator Wesely would yield to a question, please.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely, would you respond?

SENATOR WESELY: Sure.

SENATOR WITEK: I'm curious to understand why you would make this proposal, and I have been all year long. Why raise it to four, whatever, eighty-five, whatever you have raised it to, or \$5.15 I believe it's in the bill, I haven't even looked, instead of \$20.00 or so let's say? Why not raise it to \$20.00 which is a living wage, an even more livable wage for a lot of people? Why did you choose this number or this amount?